General Assembly

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Agenda item 63 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/433 (Part II))*]

62/135. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, by which it established the United Nations Development Fund for Women as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as its resolution 60/137 of 16 December 2005,

Reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] which recognizes the special role of the Fund in the promotion of the economic and political empowerment of women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2]

Emphasizing that implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women made at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions,

Reaffirming also the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in promoting the advancement of women and gender equality,

Reaffirming further all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recognizing the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] and noting that the number of States parties to the Convention is among the highest for human rights conventions,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Welcoming the contributions that the Fund has made in supporting initiatives of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to formulate and implement activities that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recalling its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and stressing the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to implement their global, regional and country-level activities in accordance with their mandates,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 [4] and subsequent Council resolutions on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[5]

Noting the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, as stipulated in the annex to resolution 39/125,

Noting also the ongoing intergovernmental consultation process on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence, [6] where issues of gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of decision 2007/35, adopted on 14 September 2007 by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund at its second regular session of 2007,[7] in which it took note of the strategic plan, 2008–2011, of the United Nations Development Fund for Women,[8] endorsed its strategic priorities and results and authorized its implementation;

2. *Welcomes* the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Fund, containing the results-focused report of progress in implementing its multi-year funding framework, 2004–2007;[9]

3. *Commends* the focus by the Fund, in accordance with its mandate as set out in the annex to resolution 39/125, on strategic programmes in its three key thematic areas of work, in line with its strategic plan, 2008–2011, namely, enhancing women's economic security and rights, ending violence against women and reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and achieving gender equality in democratic governance, as well as eradicating feminized poverty and supporting innovative programming in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and commitments made at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[2] and at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;[10]

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[5] Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/41, 2002/23, 2003/49, 2004/4, 2005/31, 2006/36 and 2007/33.

[6] See A/61/583.

[7] See DP/2008/2.

[8] DP/2007/45.

[9] A/62/188.

[10] See E/CN.6/2005/2 and Corr.1.

4. *Calls upon* Member States, intergovernmental bodies and the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to enhance the coordination and ensure adequate status and resourcing of the gender entities of the United Nations to improve the support of the United Nations system for gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global, regional and national levels;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the coordination efforts between the Fund and other funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and calls upon those entities to strengthen their collaborative efforts;

6. *Urges* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective and to pursue gender equality and the empowerment of women in all their programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes, to articulate specific global, regional and country-level benchmarks, goals and targets in this field in accordance with national development strategies, and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on the activities of the United Nations system in this regard, while also encouraging the participation of women in these processes, where appropriate;

7. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to contribute to the harmonization and coordination processes of United Nations reform through, inter alia, strengthened partnerships with other funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system and through the promotion of development, including technical cooperation, women's human rights and a gender-equality perspective in the policies, guidelines and tools developed by the United Nations Development Group;

8. *Encourages* the participation of the Fund in relevant high-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and calls upon the United Nations system to ensure participatory cooperation of units that deal with gender issues within organizations, agencies, funds and programmes across the system in order to achieve better coordination among United Nations bodies, taking into account their respective mandates, in strengthening gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Fund and other United Nations funds and programmes to strengthen the gender-equality and women's empowerment perspective in formulation, implementation and evaluation processes related to national development plans and programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, including poverty reduction strategies, the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations development assistance frameworks where they exist, and urges the Fund to support these processes;

10. *Encourages* the Fund to support strengthened and coordinated action on gender equality at the country level, including by designating Fund representatives, where the Fund already has a presence, with the authority to work with the concerned Governments to identify, formulate and execute programmes and projects, within the mandate of the Fund and in line with national priorities, and to enhance cooperation with, and active support for, resident coordinators for operational activities of the United Nations, on the understanding that this will not result in increased administrative expenditure for the Fund;

11. *Recognizes* the technical expertise of the Fund and other gender specialist resources of the United Nations system, and calls upon the United Nations development system to utilize this technical expertise, on the basis of their mandates, to support enhanced programming and policies on gender equality and the empowerment of women at all levels, while undertaking efforts to implement gender mainstreaming internally;

12. *Encourages* Member States and United Nations organizations to further explore with the Fund possible innovative representational arrangements, including through the use of seconded staff, project offices and other means;

13. *Notes* the activities undertaken by the Fund, in follow-up to resolution 60/137, to address the impact of armed conflict on women, including sexual and all other forms of violence against women and girls, to strengthen gender justice and to support the promotion of gender equality and full and effective participation of women in peace processes, peacebuilding, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, and urges the Fund to increase its efforts and enhance its support to a coordinated approach of the United Nations system, including cooperation, as appropriate, with Member States, relevant United Nations entities, regional organizations and other United Nations partners in these fields;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, established by General Assembly resolution 50/166 of 22 December 1995, as an inter-agency mechanism to respond to the deep concern regarding the persistence of violence and crimes against women in all parts of the world expressed by the Assembly, which has urged the relevant United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and specialized agencies to enhance the coordination of and intensify support to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and encourages all Governments, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to consider contributing or increasing contributions to the Trust Fund;

15. *Calls upon* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to intensify its consideration of ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the Trust Fund as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls;

16. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to support the gender-equality and women's empowerment goals and targets of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,[11] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS of the sixtieth session of the Assembly,[12] by working closely with women who are affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS to develop their capacity to influence programmes and policies, building on its partnerships within the United Nations system, in particular with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

17. *Welcomes* the strengthened partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate the participation of the Fund in the Joint Programme in order to avail its co-sponsors of the expertise of the Fund with respect to the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS;

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[11] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[12] Resolution 60/262, annex.

18. *Encourages* the Fund to respond to country requests for the development or strengthening of accountability mechanisms for gender equality, including by supporting United Nations country team coordination, through providing its specific expertise and capacities in these fields, in building the capacity of Governments to undertake gender-responsive budget analysis and to use sex-disaggregated data as a basis for gender-responsive public policy formulation;

19. *Welcomes* the role of the Fund in promoting the strategic importance of the empowerment of women in all of the regions in which it operates, and notes with appreciation the enhanced programme activities of the Fund in the African region;

20. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to assist Governments in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] in order to advance gender equality at all levels, including by reinforcing cooperation between Governments and civil society, especially women's organizations, and by supporting efforts to follow up, as appropriate, the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

21. *Also encourages* the Fund, within its mandate, to continue to assist Governments in implementing the rights of indigenous women, in accordance with international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;[13]

22. *Calls for* further clarification of the lines of responsibility, especially between the United Nations Development Programme and the Fund, to ensure that the resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams provide coherent support to countries on gender equality, and between the Fund and other member organizations of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure greater effectiveness in United Nations operational activities related to gender equality;

23. *Recognizes with appreciation* the increases in core and non-core contributions to the Fund made by Member States, private organizations and foundations, whose increased contributions demonstrate their commitment to the issues on which the Fund is working;

24. *Invites*, accordingly, Member States, non-governmental organizations and members of private organizations and foundations that have contributed to the Fund to continue to contribute and to consider increasing their financial contributions, and urges others that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Fund to enable it to reach the targets for core resources in its strategic plan, which are essential for ensuring the predictability and effective planning of its activities.

76th plenary meeting
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[13] Resolution 61/295, annex.